

Wisconsin Veterans in Piping (VIP) Program  
 United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and  
 Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA)  
***Frequently Asked Questions as of January 17, 2012***

Website: [www.wisconsinapprenticeship.org](http://www.wisconsinapprenticeship.org)

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Call: Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards @ 608.266.5373

Category	Cost
Question	How much does the training cost?
Answer	There is no cost to the veteran participant for the training. The United Association (UA) provides two 53' training welding vans, rigging complex and instructors to facilitate the training at a cost of about \$25,000 per student.
Question	Are there funds available for food, lodging, travel, etc.?
Answer	Participating students need to be prepared to pay for lodging, food and incidentals because there are no funds dedicated specifically for this purpose. However, participating students may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance, Dislocated Worker funds, Workforce Development training funds, and/or training grants from a variety of organizations.
Question	What other expenses are there?
Answer	Other expenses include: work clothes, steel toed boots, identification cards, and gas to travel between the lodging location at Ft. McCoy and the training location at Camp Williams.
Question	Can VA education benefits be used to offset the costs of food, lodging and training?
Answer	No. The VIP training program has not been approved for GI Bill/Post 911 education benefits at this time. There is an ongoing effort to gain approval for veteran's educational benefits for future VIP classes students. However, veteran's education benefits/GI Bill can be used once the graduate has been placed into an apprenticeship program after the completion of the VIP training.
Question	What programs are available to help defray the costs of food, lodging, and other incidentals?
Answer	Veterans rated with a disability through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may be eligible for retraining funding through the VA Vocational Rehabilitation program. There are other funding sources that veterans may be eligible for on a case by case basis, including Unemployment Insurance; Workforce Investment Act/Dislocated Worker (individuals can apply through their regional Workforce Development Board). To determine the Workforce Development contact in your geographic area visit <a href="http://wwda.org/site/index-3.html">http://wwda.org/site/index-3.html</a> In addition, there are various veterans' organizations and corporate organizations that have job training grant opportunities for veterans and non-veterans.
Category	Applying for the Program
Question	Who is eligible to apply?
Answer	The VIP program goal is to assist Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans with employment. All veterans with an Honorable Discharge are eligible to apply.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Applying for the Program</b>
Question	How do I apply for the program?
Answer	<p>An application is available at <a href="http://www.wisconsinapprenticeship.org">www.wisconsinapprenticeship.org</a> or send an email requesting the application to <a href="mailto:veteransinpiring@dwd.wisconsin.gov">veteransinpiring@dwd.wisconsin.gov</a> Office of Veterans Services staff are available in Job Centers throughout Wisconsin to help interested veterans complete the application. To contact Office of Veterans Services staff near you visit <a href="http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/default.htm">http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/default.htm</a></p> <p>The VIP application requires the following documentation :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) DD 214 (military service record form) that reflects an Honorable Discharge</li> <li>2) a copy of their driving record (which can be acquired from the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) <a href="http://www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/drivers/points/abstract.htm">http://www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/drivers/points/abstract.htm</a></li> <li>3) and an eye exam conducted within the last six months when applying for the program</li> <li>4) a resume</li> </ol>
Question	How are applicants selected for the VIP program?
Answer	Interviews will be conducted for applicants that have submitted a completed application and meet the eligibility criteria approximately one month prior to the start date of a class
<b>Category</b>	<b>Training</b>
Question	Where is the VIP training conducted?
Answer	Camp Williams, on Volk Field, a Wisconsin National Guard Base. The training is five 5 days a week for 20 weeks. Students may have the opportunity to gain additional training on weekends.
Question	Will I be paid during the training?
Answer	No, the training is provided at no cost, but students are not paid during the training.
<b>Category</b>	<b>Lodging/Food</b>
Question	Is there food and lodging available?
Answer	<p>Lodging is available at \$11.00 per night (or approximately \$1540 for twenty weeks) at the Wisconsin Military Academy at Ft. McCoy.</p> <p>Meals are charged on an individual meal basis. Approximately \$7.00 per meal, or \$2940 for twenty weeks.</p>
<b>Category</b>	<b>Employment upon graduation</b>
Question	Where will I be employed upon completion of the VIP training?
Answer	Upon successful completion of the 20 week training program and associated requirements, the student will be guaranteed a job somewhere in the United States. All efforts will be made by the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) to place the graduate in a location he/she is interested in working and is qualified. However there is no job location preference guarantee.
Question	How much can a VIP graduate expect to earn?
Answer	VIP graduates have been placed into initial employment at wages between \$14 and \$27 an hour plus benefits. Upon acceptance into an apprenticeship position, the veteran has access to an apprenticeship program with a progressive wage scale and a career in the pipefitting trades. Upon completing the apprenticeship (usually four to five years, depending on the occupation) a journeyworker's salary and benefits are approximately \$50 an hour.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Employment upon graduation</b>
Question	I am not sure I am able to relocate upon the completion of the training. Should I apply?
Answer	The VIP program is not for everyone. For example, if you are unable to relocate or have personal issues that would affect training attendance, this program may not be suitable for your employment needs.
<b>Category</b>	<b>Apprentice Credit</b>
Question	What credit will I receive towards the apprenticeship program?
Answer	VIP students that successfully complete the program including at least 2 welding certifications will receive one year of on the job learning credit towards their apprenticeship term. Apprentices must take all paid related instruction (PRI) classes related to their apprenticeship, unless their local apprenticeship sponsor grants PRI credit.